

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

A message from the
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR



It is my privilege to present the Chautauqua County Health Department's 2023 Annual Report Summary. I am confident that you will be encouraged by the many positive developments in both the community and within the department itself over this past year. I hope you are inspired to engage with us beyond this report and learn more about how we prevent disease, promote wellness and protect our public's health in our County as presented in our Services Guide, through our website, and our social media accounts. Not only do these platforms offer a complimentary and expanded look at the information presented here but also, more importantly, they provide us the means of connecting with the community we serve.

A great deal of what was achieved over this past year is due, in no small part, to the excellent work and service provided by the department's skilled staff. It has been my pleasure to witness the passion and professionalism from which our team members approach the challenging work they do each day. Our team's dedication, along with the support of our County Executive and devoted community partners, has helped lay a foundation from which these successes will continue to grow and develop.

In 2024, I look forward to a number of exciting initiatives centered on stabilizing the infrastructure of our local public health system, engaging more community partners and champions, and growing trusted connections with our residents. We will take up a special focus on workforce development as we hope to inspire the next generation of public health professionals. We are committed to working with our towns and villages to help them incorporate good policy and creative systems approaches to built environment and green space development that will help improve the safety, accessibility and equitable use of the beautiful natural resources native to our County, so that our residents and visitors can "move more, together!"

Lastly, I truly consider it an honor to be afforded the opportunity to serve our County as the Public Health Director, and am genuinely excited to help make the community that my family and I love a healthier place to live, work and play. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but I am confident that with the help of our community partners, the support of County Executive Wendel, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Faulk, and the collaborative efforts of our partner departments, we will build on the successes of this past year to realize a healthier 2024!

Sincerely,

Lacey R. Wilson, MPH, RDN



A message from the
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



It is a great honor for me as Chief Medical Officer to help lead the Chautauqua County Health Department, in particular paying close attention to the everyday operations of the Coroner Division and medical services for the County Jail. My County duties additionally include medical direction for the County's Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medical Dispatch. Our physician team of myself, Dr. Brian Walters and Dr. Robert Berke add essential expertise to areas of public health, correctional health, emergency medical services, coroner services and other day to day administrative medical-related needs within County government. Our goal is to help foster improved collaboration amongst medical providers and community partners while striving to provide our residents with the highest quality public health services.

I am delighted that Lacey Wilson has joined our team as Public Health Director to lead our very talented Health Department team. Lacey brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in Public Health and I am confident in her ability to bring our Health Department into the future as we prioritize our approaches to the most pressing needs of our Community.

Last year our correctional health team at the Chautauqua County Jail earned accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. This is an extraordinary accomplishment to achieve and I am grateful to the staff and the work they do each and every day. This status will undoubtedly improve the quality of correctional health services and help to provide effective and efficient care while guiding our staff to maintain compliance with national standards.

The work of our Coroners continues to be challenging. For 2023, we have a full complement of Coroners, all of which are Registered Nurses with medical experience. This experience allows our Coroners to not only provide the services of death investigation alongside our Law Enforcement partners, but also compassionately assist our families who have suddenly lost a loved one.

As we move into the future, I look forward to our continued, robust response to the opioid epidemic; an epidemic that has become even more challenging over the last several years with the addition of Fentanyl into the dangerous drug supply. This will require sustainable collaboration between public health, public safety and our valued community partners to reduce overdose deaths, improve treatment access and effectiveness, prioritize prevention, support families and strengthen our public health approach to this serious public health crisis.

I feel privileged to serve in these roles for our County residents.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Faulk, MD FACEP



*Brian Walters, DO
 County Physician*

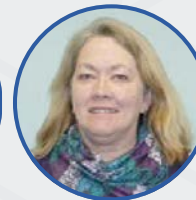


*Robert Berke, MD
 County Physician*

As the overseer of the Sanitary Code of Chautauqua County, the Board of Health is a vital force in preventing disease, promoting health and promulgating public health policy. The group represents a broad range of public health related disciplines. Over the years, the Board has enacted countless measures to improve the wellbeing of Chautauqua County residents and visitors.

The Board of Health meets bi-monthly at 6 p.m. at the Chautauqua County Health Department office. Meetings are open to the public and the agenda includes an opportunity for public comment. Visit HealthyCHQ.com for meeting dates and more information.

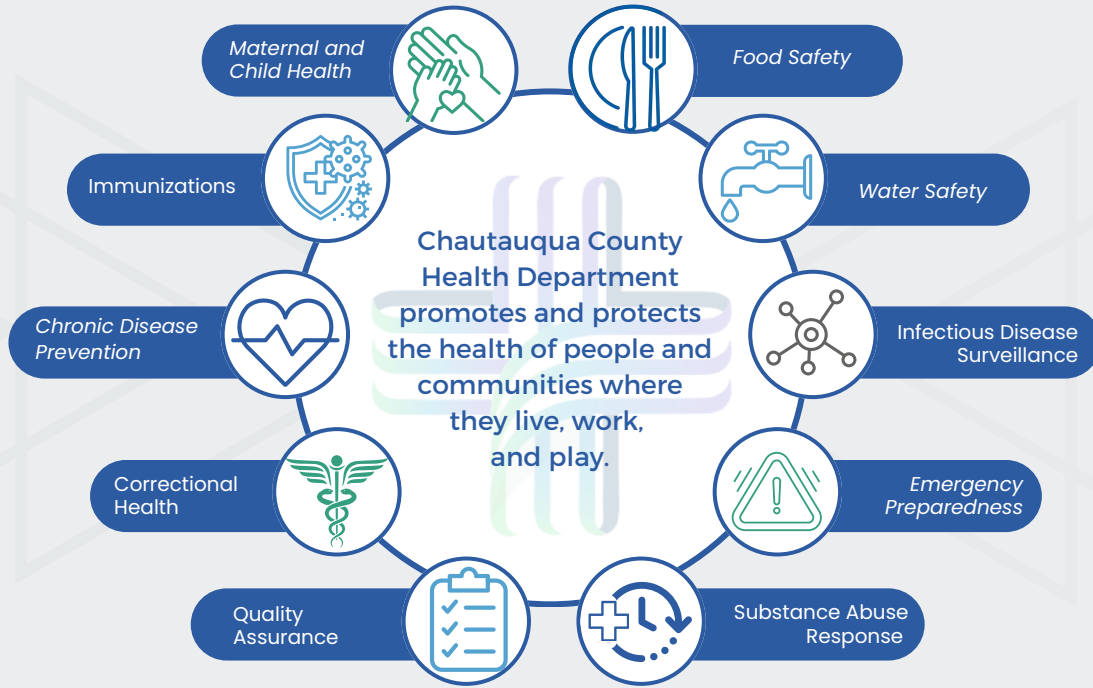
BOARD OF HEALTH



Top row from left: Lillian V. Ney, MD (President); Elizabeth Kidder, MD (Vice President); Thomas Erlandson, PhD; Matthew Hanley; Tariq Khan, MD;
 Bottom row: Richard Ketcham; Wolf-Dieter Krahn, MD; Erin Pender, DDS; Elisabeth Rankin; Mark Tarbrake

IMPACTING LIVES EVERY DAY

The Chautauqua County Health Department is the leading Public Health organization in Chautauqua County dedicated to the support of the community's health. The Health Department takes innovative approaches to provide technical assistance to partner organizations, and offers various programs and services in order to help prevent disease, protect the public's health and promote our community's overall health and wellness.



Working towards BRIGHTER FUTURES

While working within programs and services listed above, the Health Department engages with community partners to review data and identify priority health areas to improve County health outcomes through implementation of programs and services. Here is a list of a few of the current priority areas.



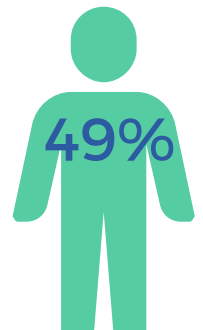
Preventing Chronic Disease
60% of all deaths in the state are associated to chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes and Chautauqua County is no exception.



Prevent Overdose Deaths:
61 Confirmed overdose deaths occurred in Chautauqua County in 2023, a slight increase from 2022.

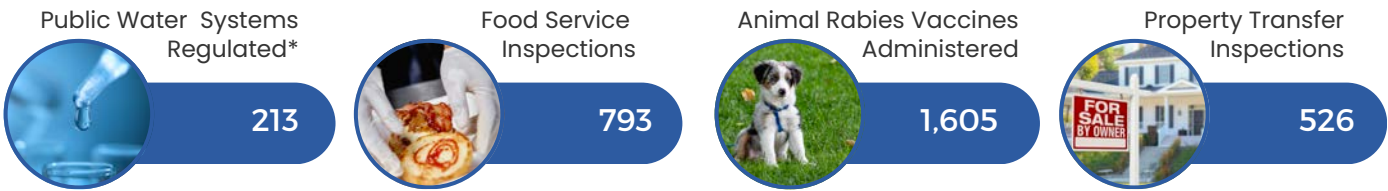
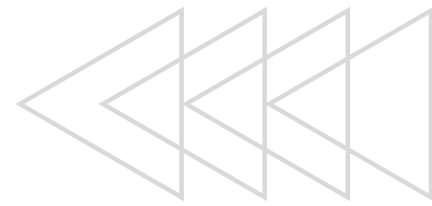


Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning: 53% of homes in Chautauqua County were built prior to 1950, compared to 32% in New York State. Lead paint was banned in 1978 but was rarely used after 1950. Children poisoned by lead found in old paint are subject to PERMANENT learning and behavior problems.



Promote Healthy Women, Infants, and Children: 49% of newborns are exclusively breastfed in UPMC Chautauqua, the only birthing center in Chautauqua County. This decreased from 60% in 2018.

2023 AT A GLANCE



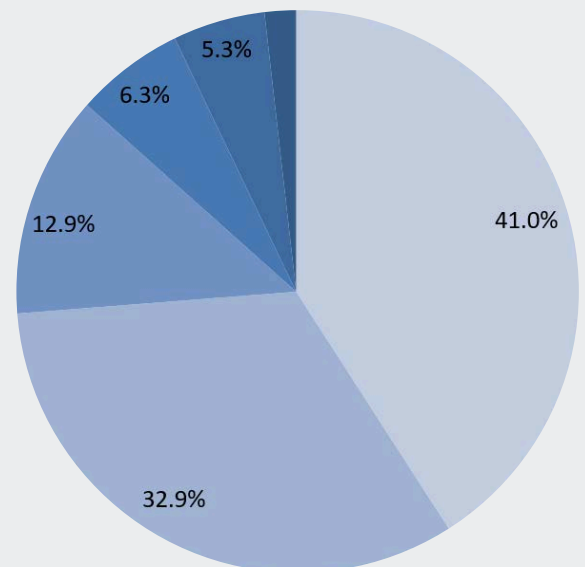
*includes municipal water systems, mobile home parks, restaurants, schools & campgrounds



through press releases, events, social media, & partner meetings

2023 REVENUE

PROGRAMS	2023	%	2022	%
Preschool	5,324,881	41.0%	5,206,741	47.7%
State/Federal Grants	4,274,310	32.9%	3,085,448	28.2%
State Aid	1,672,671	12.9%	1,401,977	12.8%
Fees for Service	812,842	6.3%	420,724	3.9%
Early Intervention	686,851	5.3%	659,874	6.0%
Other	231,277	1.8%	150,966	1.4%
TOTAL REVENUE	13,002,832		10,925,731	



HIGHLIGHTS



The **Chautauqua County Jail's Medical Unit** received **National Accreditation** in 2023. Facilities that achieve NCCHC accreditation demonstrate their commitment to high-quality health care services that are constitutionally appropriate and based on nationally recognized standards. Correctional Health Nurses have been trained to recognize prevention and health promotion, as well as chronic disease management. The Correctional Health Team offers a public health approach to care that includes reproductive health care, immunizations, preventive screenings, chronic disease management, and a Substance Abuse Recovery and Re-entry Program.



The **Chautauqua County Jail's Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program** ran for its **first full year** in 2023. MAT is an evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder that uses FDA-approved pharmacotherapy in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. Statistics show that within three months of release from custody, 75 percent of people who were in prison or jail with an opioid use disorder experience a relapse to opioid use.* The MAT program is in place to allow inmates better chances for success upon release. 3,527 MAT interactions took place in the Jail in 2023. **Source: Samhsa.gov*



The **Welcome Home Baby Program** ran for its **first full year** and provided in-home visits to nearly half of all newborns who reside in Chautauqua County. The program provides every new mom in the County the opportunity for a one-time visit with a public health nurse during the post-partum period. Nurses offer information on infant growth and development, safety, nutrition, immunizations, safe sleep, breastfeeding and more. Mothers are also given information on available programs offered in the community, including support for breastfeeding, maternal and infant home health visiting programs, post-partum depression and more.



Water Wins: The Village of Fredonia and Town of Mina are one step closer to significant improvements in their water and sewer infrastructure. The Health Department continues to support improvements to the existing public water supply in Fredonia and the creation of a sewer district around Findley Lake by providing guidance related to NYSDOH and federal regulations. Health Department staff provide educational information for municipal officials as well as community members and work to link communities with the resources that are available to them. Through these combined efforts, we are working to promote healthy, reliable water and sewer infrastructure to County residents.



Our New Mobile Health Vehicle arrived in June 2023. The vehicle is equipped with a medical exam room that can be used to provide any medical service that the Department offers through their Article 28 medical license. The vehicle will be used to provide community and environmental health education, testing and screenings such as childhood lead testing, HIV, HCV and STD testing. We also plan to use it to provide immunizations, referral services, preventative care, Narcan distribution and training as well as harm reduction and combat addiction services. More information coming soon on where residents can find the mobile health vehicle and a list of services offered.



Chautauqua County welcomed eight **Public Health Fellows** to work on various public health initiatives throughout the County through the New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) fellows grant program. The program helps to fortify Public Health system's operations and capacity, engage and develop the workforce, and increase readiness for future Public Health emergencies. Current fellows will work under this grant through June 2024. Due to the program's overwhelming success, a Fellows 2.0 program will launch later this year where we will have an opportunity to utilize fellows to assist in planning and developing out new programs and mandates within our Department.

OPPORTUNITIES



Workforce Sustainability:

2024 provides the opportunity for the Health Department to be a standalone agency for the first time in a number of years. We are working closely with Human Resources to develop a creative and sustainable staffing plan. We are employing innovative approaches to deliver the mandated and necessary programs the Department is charged with while working to improve recruitment and retention strategies amidst shortfalls in both clinical and technical fields.



Communications:

We are working to develop a communications arm of the Health Department. This division will strive to provide clear and consistent messaging that will resonate with the appropriate audiences, provide the right information, and be easily understood, all while enhancing the work within our partner agencies to provide streamlined and consistent messaging around public health and preparedness.



Rental Registry:

We are working with the NYSDOH regarding the mandated healthy housing initiatives coming down the pike in order to improve the health and wellness of county residents and prevent childhood lead poisoning. We are excited to continue making positive steps to eliminate serious health risks to the community. Seeing out these new mandates will require more staffing and funding is currently unknown.



Increasing Expenditures:

The Health Department is closely monitoring increasing expenses related to mandated programs such as preschool and children's special education as well as substance abuse recovery programming within the jail.

REBRANDING

In 2024, the Health Department became a stand-alone Department, which gave us a rebranding opportunity. A new logo and tagline were developed. We chose the tagline that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) encourages all local health departments to use. *Prevent. Promote. Protect.* It is the basis of public health. The use of a logo helps to strengthen the identity of our health department. It is used in all of our marketing materials, letterhead and anywhere possible when promoting the Health Department. This consistent messaging helps people to identify who we are and what we do.



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Chautauqua County Health Department exists to **Prevent** disease, **Promote** wellness and **Protect** the health of our community.



Updated lobby with logoed signage

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMMING

Maternity Ward Rounds:

2023: 375
2022: 252

Breastfeeding Support:

2023: 70
2022: 111

Early Intervention Program Child Participants:

2023: 1,022
2022: 766

Preschool Cost Per Student:

2023: \$15,685
2022: 11,961

Immunizations:

2023: 906
2022: 633

Narcan Training:

2023: 271
2022: 520

Correctional Health Nursing visits:

2023: 2,329
2022: 2,261

Medicated Assisted Treatment: new for 2023

2023: 3,527

Communicable Disease Control: Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by bacteria or viruses that people spread to one another through contact with contaminated surfaces, bodily fluids, blood products, insect bites, or through the air. Control of these diseases is one of the main functions of a public health department. NYS requires over 70 diseases be reported to the local health department, requiring staff to investigate and provide education to prevent further spread of illness and to contact exposed individuals if treatment or monitoring for symptoms is needed. This surveillance helps to detect outbreaks and enable prompt intervention. Many hours are dedicated to this program to maintain the community's health.

Breastfeeding Support: Our breastfeeding support program provides information and support on the benefits of breastfeeding. Public Health Nurses/Lactation Consultants offer home visits to any mother struggling to reach her breastfeeding goals. Breastfeeding can be frustrating. We are here to offer help when you feel like giving up. Our staff share information about this program during in person visits with new parents to the UPMC Chautauqua maternity unit and on Welcome Home Baby Program* visits. *see page 6 for program details.

Early Intervention, Preschool Special Education, and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Programs: Serves children who have or are at high risk of developmental delays. Early Intervention program serves infants and children from birth to age 3. Preschool Special Education program serves children ages 3 to 5 and the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program serves all ages from birth to 21 years.

Immunization Program: Provides vaccinations to eligible children through the Center for Disease Control Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and community outreach clinics to immunize groups at risk for vaccine preventable diseases. Nurses provide outreach and education to families, area schools, day care centers, private provider offices and the public.

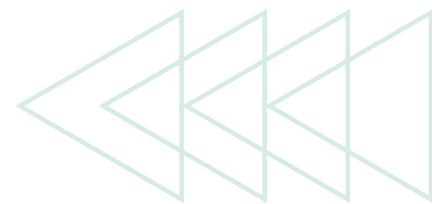
Chronic Disease Prevention: Provides no-cost assistance to communities, schools, employers, and organizations in making policy, systems, and environment-level changes to help prevent chronic diseases and improve community health outcomes.

Opioid Overdose Prevention Program: This program is designed to train community members, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies how to administer naloxone to an individual who has experienced an overdose.

Correctional Health Program: Program delivers holistic health care services with respect and care to individuals detained in the Chautauqua County Jail. The medical program ensures the provision of emergency, acute and basic medical/mental health care services to all incarcerated individuals in a timely manner. Staff strive to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, prevent and treat chronic conditions, promote healthy behaviors, improve well-being and self-sufficiency and assist with linkages for success upon release.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Inspection Services: Staff issue permits and inspect food service establishments, temporary residences, campgrounds, mobile home parks, tanning facilities, body art facilities, public swimming pools, public bathing beaches, and public water supplies to ensure compliance with the New York State Sanitary Code. Inspections identify conditions that could lead to communicable disease transmission as well as educate operators on best practices to protect public health and properly maintain facilities.

Drinking Water: Bacteria testing services are available for public water supplies at our certified water laboratory. Residents with private water supplies (wells, etc.) are offered guidance regarding appropriate water treatment and disinfection options. Water specialists ensure public water supplies meet NYS Department of Health structural requirements and provide guidance for the supplies to comply with federal and state water testing requirements. Staff oversee water operator certification.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Regulates and oversees the design and installation of private and commercial onsite wastewater treatment systems, commonly known as septic systems, to ensure proper installation.

Property Transfer Inspections: Residential and commercial water supplies and onsite wastewater treatment systems are inspected at the time of property transfer. Water supplies are inspected for structural safety, appropriate water treatment components, and indicator bacteria. Wastewater treatment systems are evaluated to verify that sewage and wastewater concerns are addressed adequately and in compliance with current requirements.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Staff prepare response plans and conduct drills to ensure all types of natural and manmade hazards, including infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and incidents involving biological, chemical, or radiological contamination will be handled in the best interest of public health and safety.

Rabies: Staff investigate reports of animal bites to evaluate the potential risk of rabies exposure and offer guidance regarding necessary precautions and follow-up. The Department offers free rabies vaccine clinics in collaboration with local municipalities for domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Primary Prevention Programs: Provides lead poisoning prevention education, nurse case management, environmental investigation, lead hazard assessment, and abatement follow up activities. Lead Primary Prevention provides free in-home testing, free renovation, repair and painting training, free paint and cleaning supplies for landlords and homeowners in the Jamestown area. This program has also procured \$5M in United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds to remediate lead and unsafe, unhealthy housing.

Public Water Systems Regulated:

2023: 213
2022: 215

Food Service Establishments Permitted:

2023: 793
2022: 928

Septic Permits:

2023: 441
2022: 359

Property Transfer Inspections:

2023: 526
2022: 625

Beaches Monitored:

2023: 27
2022: 29

Possible Rabies Exposure Investigations:

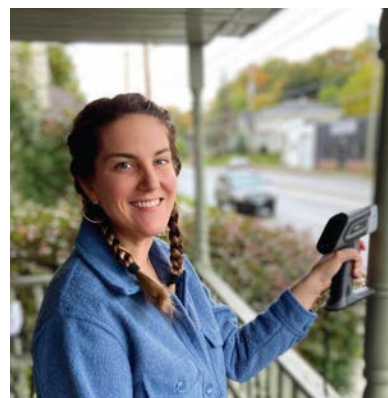
2023: 365
2022: 361

Smoking/Vaping Sales Inspections:

2023: 124
2022: 130

Children Tested for Lead:

2023: 2,279
2022: 2,132



CORONER

Coroners respond to unattended, suspicious and accidental deaths in the community, refers cases to the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy as appropriate, and completes the manner and cause of death sections of death certificates for appropriate cases.

Coroner Cases

Deaths	2022	2023
Natural	270	257
Drugs	58	62
Accident	23	24
Suicide	18	9
Homicide	3	2
Undetermined	4	7
Pending	0	1
Totals	376	361

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Health Department works in a number of ways to connect with the public and share messages about programs, health promotion, and community collaborations. The County's Media Information Officer plays a vital role to distribute news and information to the public regarding public health risks and information. This division works to engage community leaders and the media in educating the community about various health issues facing the County through media releases including topics on substance abuse risks, public water emergencies, rabies outbreaks, air quality, Lyme disease risk, lead paint hazards to children, the importance of immunizations and more. CCHD also uses social media tools such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. We receive and respond to personal health related questions from the public via phone, the private message feature on our various program-specific Facebook pages, and through our general email box.

Press Releases

2023: 36
2022: 29

Social Media:

Posts:

2023: 777
2022: 868

Followers:

2023: 10,132
2022: 9,703

Reach:

2023: 266,796
2022: 493,056

Outreach Events:

30+ Events

Facebook insights show that our page reach (*the number of people who saw any content from our page*) in 2023 was 266,796. Our Facebook page was visited 16,485 times and our top post reached 29k people.

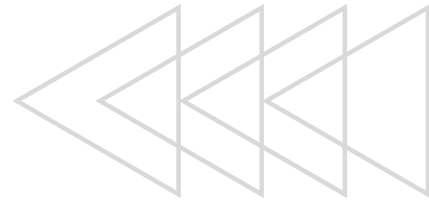
Additionally, department program experts participate in educational events across the County as appropriate, with a goal of reaching a diverse population of County residents. Use of virtual technologies and social media tools continued to be crucial for reaching community members, in addition to traditional media sources.

Protecting and improving the public's health and promoting wellness cannot be managed by an organization, health care provider, government or community agency alone. Partnerships, coalitions and collaborations are essential to the public health effort.

The Health Department leads the Chautauqua Health Action Team, also known as the *CHAT*. This team is comprised of organizations related to health and wellness through the County. The *CHAT* works to keep members informed of health related initiatives within their organizations and to find ways to work together to transform the lives of the community.



OUR STAFF



Welcome New Staff to the Team!

- Julia Aronson
- Kislyn Fray
- Jeffrey Gallagher
- Amy Johnson
- Amy Newhall
- McKayla Polowy
- Edward Teeter
- Jennifer Wilcox
- Lacey Wilson
- Jessica Yonkers

Congratulations on your Retirement!

- Doug Hamernik
- Mary Hunt
- Joanne Tofil

Sydney Aldrich
Kimberly Alguire
Michelle Bajdas
Bonnie Barnes
Alesa Beers****
Emily Beers
Dr. Robert Berke****
Catherine Burgess
Johanna Carlson
Michelle Coon
Wendy Douglas
Amanda Dove
Shauna Erickson
Alison Espin
Michael Faulk
Lori Girts
Kenneth Haley

Kenneth Haley
Clarissa Harris
Janelle Hartloff
Rebecca Hemenger
Amy Hitchcock
Charlyn Huntington
Bethany Ibhawa*
Christina Johnson
Christina Lawson
Shai Lewis
Rhonda Mapes
Tabitha Maring
Jim McKillip****
Ruth Mendez
Darlynda Miktuk
Teresa Miller
Casey Miller*

Jeffrey Mitchell
Kurt Moeller
Sarah Mott
Denise Nichols
Anna Powell*
Amber Proper
Sherri Rater
Amanda Reiner*
Gladys Rivera**
Sharoyrn Ruby
MaryAnn Schauman
Vicki Seiberg
Tyler Steklasa
Dan Tyler
Desiree Vara
Brian Walters
Austin Wellman

Natalie Whiteman
Susan Wielgasz
Jessica Wuerstle
Mara Zilkenat

2023 Anniversaries:

- *5 years of service
- **10 years of service
- ***20 years of service
- ****30 + years of service





Chautauqua County
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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Click or scan to learn more:

